

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 07862 231354Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13

ACDA-07 /079 W

-----231357Z 005809 /50

O R 231235Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 133

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 7862

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MARCOS REPORTS ON ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

1. DURING MEETING THIS EVENING (REPORTED SEPTTEL) PRESIDENT MARCOS WAS CALLED AWAY TO TAKE A TELEPHONE CALL FROM SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ROMULO, PRESUMABLE IN TRIPOLI. MEANWHILE, AMBASSADOR KOKOY ROMUALDEZ REPORTED THAT THE NEWS FROM TRIPOLI WAS VERY GOOD, ALTHOUGH LIBYA WAS STILL "FOOLING AROUND," AND HE ENTERTAINED US WITH TALES OF HIS ABSENTEE TENURE IN PEKING.

2. MARCOS RETURNED AFTER TWENTY MINUTES TO REPORT THE OUTCOME OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE ON THE ISSUE OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 07862 231354Z

SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES TO BE: (A) CONTINUATION OF THE CEASE-FIRE, (B) QUADRIPARTITE MEDIATION, "WHATEVER THAT MEANS, AND (C) NO SANCTIONS. HE SAID THE SAUDI ARABIANS HAD TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THEY WERE NOT INTERESTED IN SANCTIONS, AND THE INDONESIANS HAD SAID THAT IF OTHERS WERE TO CUT OFF PETROLEUM SUPPLY TO THE PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA WOULD PROVIDE IT. "CAN YOU IMAGINE," MARCOS

SAID, "THE MNLF WANTED A SEPARATE ARMY. THAT WE WILL NEVER PERMIT, NEVER*"

3. MARCOS CONCLUDED THAT THE OUTCOME REPORTED FROM TRIPOLI "MUST BE CONSIDERED A GOOD THING, AS LONG AS THE CEASE-FIRE CONTINUES." HE ADDED THAT HE HAD FLASHED THE NEWS TO THE SOUTH WHERE TENSION WAS HIGH.

4. COMMENT: WE INTERPRET THIS OUTCOME TO MEAN A RETURN TO SOME FORM OF DISCUSSIONS, EVEN FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS, ASSUMING THE MNLF FORCES ON THE GROUND GO ALONG. MARCOS' EMPHASIS ON DURABILITY OF THE CEASE-FIRE CONFIRMS OUR IMPRESSION THAT HE CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT AS LONG AS THE CEASE-FIRE HOLDS, HE MAY BE ABLE TO MUDDLE THROUGH WITH A COMBINATION OF RHETORIC, MONEY, POLITICAL MANEUVER AND MARGINAL CONCESSIONS TO A STAGE WHERE THE PATTERNS OF PEACE MAY BE SUFFICIENTLY ESTABLISHED TO EFFECT AN ACCEPTABLE MODUS VIVENDI.

5. IT'S A DELICATE BALANCING ACT PURSUED WITH DETERMINATION IN THE FACE OF WIDESPREAD SCEPTICISM AND LONG ODDS. STULL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, LIBERATION FRONTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, PDEV, RP, LY, MNLF, (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
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